

April

1987

PAARA

*GRAPHS*

**Featuring:**

The Novice class  
in effect. Rule  
in this month's  
cheating you??  
disappearance



enhancement is now  
changes are listed  
issue. Is PG&E  
+ The mysterious  
of OSCAR XI . . . ➡

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION  
AND**

**THE MENLO PARK C.D. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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And a few anonymous, but *very* important publication people!

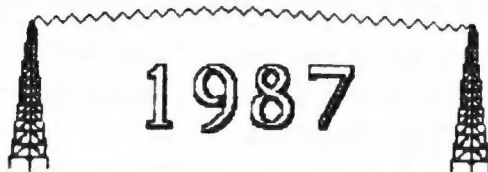
## PAARA Policies

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calender year which includes a subscription to *PAARAgaphs*. Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

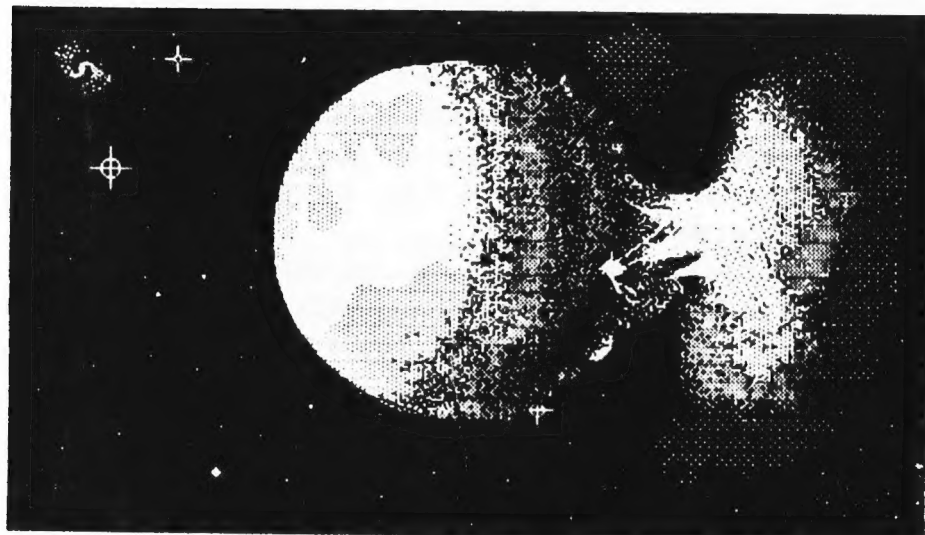
**Club Net on 147.45 MHz Mondays at 8:30 P.M.**

Meetings monthly at the Menlo Park Recreation Center at 7:30 P.M., the first Friday of the month.

April



**From the Editor's Desk:**



The above picture is from Oscar XI and shows actual Russian woodpecker activity as documented on the first of April, 1987. The Communist Communications Commission, CCC, had no comment. Oscar XI suddenly and mysteriously disappeared the next day. Happy April Fool's Day.

## Speaker of the Month

**The "Winnebiko", the ultimate bicycle and its proud owner, Steve Roberts, KA8OVR, will be at April's meeting--don't miss this!**

A reminder: Anyone interested in helping teach English as a foreign language through Amateur Radio should contact W6APZ and W6ANT.

## Attention Low-Level Electric Consumers

If your electric bill is less than \$7 per month, chances are good that your meter is not accurate. It can be a "special" one reading 25% to 35% high. Mine was!

Back in college, I heard that some utilities are known to provide low-level consumers with "doctored up" meters reading above normal.

In 1983, I suspected mine was doctored, made some tests, and found a 1.4 KWH load registered as 1.9 KWH, 35% high. I had the PG&E check it and they argued it was OK.

On February 8, 1986, I rechecked and found a 1.5 KWH load registered 2.0 KWH, 33% high. I called PG&E again and with lots of arguing, they finally repaired my meter. Since then, all my electric bills have averaged 75% of the corresponding monthly bills for the previous year.

I reported the matter to the PUC and was granted a hearing on November 26, 1986. So far, nothing has happened. Before and during the hearing, various PG&E representatives gave some absolutely stupid technical comments on the situation. They certainly were trying to confuse the judge and the consumer.

I would like to find someone with an inaccurate meter so I can demonstrate my tests to the PUC, if necessary. It would help all of us.

At the present rate, I have lost \$1.20 per month for 20 years, \$288. If you want to check your meter, turn on some high electricity consumption appliances (to speed up the rotations and save time) and note the right dial reading. Then, count 278 revolutions of the horizontal rotor. It should advance the dial reading exactly 1.0 KWH.

de W6AQL  
Dick Finkbeiner

(Mr. Finkbeiner will be giving a brief lecture on the above mentioned topic at April's meeting. I suggest you all check your meters to make sure that they are counting 1 KWH per 278 revolutions. My thanks to W6AQL for bringing this problem to the club's attention. --de KB6BPM.)

## **THE FACTS ABOUT NOVICE ENHANCEMENT**

On Friday, January 30, 1987, the Federal Communications Commission announced the Novice Enhancement Proposal. The specific changes to the federal rules are:

- Novices and Technicians may now operate on ten meters on 28.1 through 28.5 MHz: using CW and digital modes from 28.1 to 28.3 MHz and digital and voice modes from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz. Novices and Technicians are still limited to 200 watts PEP, but other higher licensees are able to use full power.
- Novices may also use up to 25 watts in the 222.10 through 223.91 MHz band segment of 220 using all authorized emissions.
- Novices may use up to 5 watts PEP in the 1270 through 1295 band segment with all authorized emissions.
- Novices are still restricted to control operator status only in all bands. They may not ever be in repeater, auxiliary or beacon operation as control operator.
- Future testing of Novices will require two qualified examiners present (i.e. over 18 years of age, holding a General or higher Amateur Radio License, and not be related to the applicant or derive and income from Amateur Radio commerce). The FCC Form 610 will be revised and the question pool will be rewritten to reflect the new skills Novices must have.
- Current Novice and Technician licensees will be grandfathered into the new enhancement privileges.

The above rule changes went into effect on 0001 UTC, March 21, 1987.

## **THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB**

The major focus for the NCCC is contesting, and we target a few contest each year as an all out club effort. We have monthly meetings and a club repeater (W6RGG on 147.240 MHz) for spotting information during contests and casual conversation at other times. The NCCC sponsors the California QSO party, and event all agree is the best and largest state QSO party.

For more information, please contact Duane, W6REC:

(209) 368-1121

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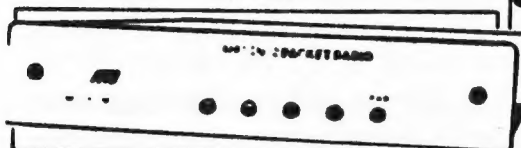
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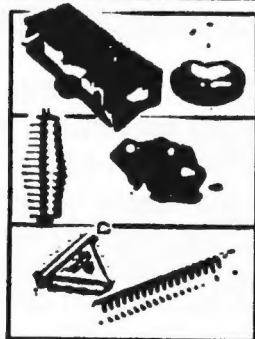
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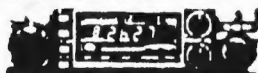


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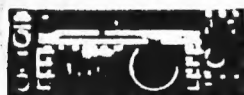
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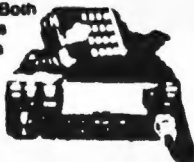


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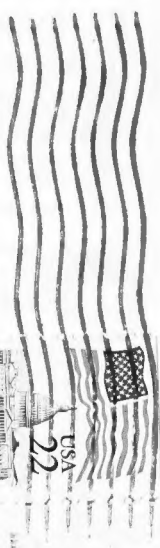
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